



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
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May 15, 2006

Dear Public Water System:

The MassDEP is in the process of updating the status of the number of miles of vinyl-lined asbestos-cement (VLAC) pipe still in use. Attached to this cover letter you will find a survey on VLAC used in PWSs. **Please complete and return the survey by June 17, 2006.** Your assistance in updating this information will greatly contribute to our ability to work with PWSs to decrease the concentrations of PCE from VLAC pipe in drinking water, which directly improves public health protection.

VLAC pipe is a source of tetrachloroethylene, also known as perchloroethylene or PCE, a chemical that has been shown to be detrimental to public health when ingested and inhaled. Leaching of PCE from the VLAC pipe to drinking water is therefore a public health concern and every effort should be made to identify PWSs that still have VLAC pipe and encourage those systems to reduce the amount of pipe. This will minimize and eventually eliminate this source of PCE. According to our records, your system is in this category and therefore this survey has been sent to you.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for VLAC pipe monitoring has been updated and can be found on the web at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/leadothe.htm>. Changes to this SOP include:

1. A background section describing the regulation of VLAC pipes,
2. An additional option for monitoring frequency when three consecutive samples have non-detect results, and
3. Guidance for requesting an alternate sampling schedule.

Please contact Nicholas Anastas at (617) 556-1157 if you have any questions regarding the SOP or this survey.

Sincerely,

(signed original on file in Boston office)

David Y. Terry  
Program Director  
BRP Drinking Water Program  
Encl.  
P/dwparchive/pcesurvey/2006-5-10

This information is available in alternate format. Call Donald M. Gomes, ADA Coordinator at 617-556-1057. TDD Service - 1-800-298-2207.

DEP on the World Wide Web: <http://www.mass.gov/dep>

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